

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

221559Z Aug 00

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	R-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W			

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6889
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 004662

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF, AF/S, AF/EPS, EB/IFD/ODF, EB/TPP/ODC
TREASURY FOR ED BARBER, GRACE SONE, AND HOFFMAN BARAK
STATE PASS USTR/RWHITTAKER
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS
PASS USAID FOR RICHARD MCCALL AND AFR/SA - MWILLIAMS
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/10
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: FIRST STEP TOWARD RESTORATION OF RULE OF LAW?
JURY IS STILL OUT

REF: A) HARARE 4627 B) HARARE 4389

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MCDONALD. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 21, POLICE EVICTED WAR VETERANS FROM A COMMERCIAL FARM ON THE SOUTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF HARARE AND ARRESTED 13 WAR VETERANS WHO HAD BARRICADED A ROAD EAST OF THE CAPITAL. IN THE FIRST INCIDENT, POLICE TOLD THE WAR VETERANS TO LEAVE BECAUSE THE FARM THEY HAD OCCUPIED SINCE MAY HAD NOT BEEN DESIGNATED FOR RESETTLEMENT, THEN PROCEEDED TO SET THEIR MAKESHIFT HUTS ABLAZE. IN THE SECOND CASE, THE ARRESTED WAR VETERANS HAD BLOCKADED A ROAD TO PROTEST THE SLOW PACE OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE GOROMONZI AREA EAST OF HARARE.

2. (C) ALTHOUGH THE GOZ CONTINUES TO PRESS AHEAD WITH ITS ACCELERATED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM -- RECENTLY IDENTIFYING 229 ADDITIONAL FARMS AS READY FOR THE FINAL STEP OF COMPULSORY ACQUISITION -- IT APPEARS, FINALLY, AT LEAST IN THESE TWO INSTANCES, TO BE CRACKING DOWN ON THE FREE REIGN ENJOYED BY THE WAR VETERANS DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED "THE HERALD" ON AUGUST 22, HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER JOHN
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NKOMO INSISTED THAT LAWLESSNESS ON THE FARMS, INCLUDING INTERFERENCE WITH NORMAL FARMING ACTIVITIES, AND UNAUTHORIZED LAND ALLOCATIONS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. NKOMO ALSO PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE AUGUST 19 CALL BY WAR VETERANS LEADER CHENJERAI HUNZVI FOR INVASIONS OF ADDITIONAL FARMS, FACTORIES, AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS. THIS IS ENCOURAGING IN LIGHT OF THE MINISTER'S LESS THAN HELPFUL AND CONTRADICTORY COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR DURING THEIR MEETING ON AUGUST 16 (REF A).

3. (C) COMMENT: THESE TWO INCIDENTS OF POLICE INTERVENTION ARE AN ENCOURAGING DEPARTURE FROM GOZ NON-ACTION TO DATE, IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THE VETERANS' ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE WAR VETERANS HAVE OUTLIVED MUCH OF THEIR USEFULNESS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, AND, IN FACT ARE DOING SO MUCH DAMAGE TO THE GOZ'S CREDIBILITY THAT THEY HAVE BECOME A LIABILITY. THIS COULD EXPLAIN THE POLICE ACTIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THIS IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN RESTORING SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORDER, THE POLICE ACTIONS WERE, SO FAR, AN ISOLATED

INSTANCE. THEY OCCURRED IN THE WAKE OF REPORTS OF NEW
FARM INVASIONS NEAR MASVINGO, IN SOUTH-CENTRAL ZIMBABWE.
IT WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING, THEREFORE, TO SEE WHETHER
THE VETERANS' UNBRIDLED FREEDOM IS COMING TO AN END, AS
WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT'S TACIT, OFTEN DIRECT, SUPPORT FOR
THEIR ACTIVITIES. CLEARLY, MUCH, MUCH MORE MUST BE DONE
TO DEMONSTRATE TO ZIMBABWEANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY THAT THE GOZ IS GENUINELY COMMITTED TO
RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW.

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